

Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Michael Dunn for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am honored to represent Michael in the United States House of Representatives.

# MOURNING THE PASSING OF PRESIDENT GERALD RUDOLPH FORD

SPEECH OF

**HON. TOM COLE**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 9, 2007*

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I rise today to praise a truly good man. With the passing of President Gerald Ford, the House of Representatives lost its most distinguished alumni, and America lost a great patriot who always placed his country's good ahead of his own political interest. Gerald Ford was a man of absolute integrity and profound personal decency.

Much has been said about President Ford's distinguished career in the House and as President. Many will rightly recall his absolute integrity and his profound personal decency. To build upon those remarks, I would like to share some of my personal interactions with Gerald Ford. I had the honor of meeting and working with former President Ford on many occasions after he left office. I found him to be the same man in private that he was in public—decent, honorable, and self-deprecating in his humor and observations. He was shrewd without being devious and wise without being complicated.

Madam Speaker, President Ford had genuine connections to and affection for Oklahoma and Oklahomans. He told me on several occasions that he became Vice President and ultimately President because of the late Speaker Carl Albert of Oklahoma, who supported his nomination for the Vice Presidency. He always remembered that Oklahoma was one of only two Southern States that he carried in 1976. Indeed, once while making this point to me, he recalled the exact margin of victory—13,266 out of over 1 million cast.

Madam Speaker, during a memorable 1976 campaign stop in Oklahoma, President Ford said, "It's great to be in Oklahoma, the home of Will Rogers, who never met a man he didn't like, and the Oklahoma Sooners, who never played a team they couldn't beat." I later told him that single line won Oklahoma for him. "Well," he responded, "talking college football is pretty good politics in a lot of places. You might try it if you're ever campaigning in Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, or just about anywhere in the South." It is still one of the best pieces of advice I ever got from a practicing politician.

President Ford paired his intelligence with empathy and his candor with modesty. He was as politically astute as he was personally decent, something that all too many people forget. He was absolutely loyal to his party while still approaching politics in a pragmatic and bipartisan manner that made genuine political compromise possible. The House was all the better because of his character, and so too was our country. When speaking to the

Congress, the President said with his usual humility that he was a Ford, not a Lincoln. Today, only the best among us might be able to call themselves Fords.

We will all miss him very much, Madam Speaker, and I strongly urge support of H. Res. 15.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 10, 2007*

Mr. NORWOOD. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 14 on the motion to recommit (H.R. 1). Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

## RECOGNIZING TIM LEININGER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 10, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Tim Leininger, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 495, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Tim has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Tim has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Tim Leininger for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am honored to represent Tim in the United States House of Representatives.

## HONORING SOUTHLAKE CARROLL HIGH SCHOOL FOR WINNING THE 5A DIVISION I FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 10, 2007*

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to the 2006 Southlake Carroll High School football team, which on Saturday, December 23, 2006, earned the title of 5A Division I State Champions and finished its season a perfect 16–0.

The Dragons rallied in the second half to deliver a 43–29 come-from-behind victory over Austin Westlake and on that day it was clear to everyone in the Alamodome that the Southlake Carroll Dragons are a genuine Texas high school football dynasty. In seven seasons under Head Coach Todd Dodge, the Dragons have amassed a 98–11 overall record and have gone 79–1 in the past 5 years. The team has won three consecutive national titles, won the last four of five State championships and has tied the Texas high school record with seven state titles. This

year, Southlake Carroll is also ranked as the consensus No. 1 team in the country by seven national polls. The Dragons have shown they are simply the best high school football program in decades.

Throughout its historic championship runs, Southlake Carroll has represented the ideal virtues of amateur athletic programs—teamwork, tenacity, competitiveness and dignity—and its immaculate seasons will be recounted for generations to come throughout the state of Texas.

I could not be more proud than to represent Southlake Carroll High School in Congress, and I congratulate the players, coaches, fans and parents who made the 2006 season such a memorable one.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 10, 2007*

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, due to important congressional business, I was unable to vote during the following rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated below: rollcall No. 12: "no"; rollcall No. 13: "yes"; rollcall No. 14: "no"; rollcall No. 15: "yes."

## RECOGNIZING SEAN MCCALMON FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 10, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sam McCalmon, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 495, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Sean has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Sean has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Sean McCalmon for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am honored to represent Sean in the United States House of Representatives.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 10, 2007*

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am writing to notify you that I was absent for votes on January 4 and 5, 2007. The reason for my absence was that I had a